

Babati District R4D Platform

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What and Where?

Babati District is unique in its agroecological and sociocultural diversity, represented by the six project villages - Long, Sabilo, Seloto, Matufa, Hallu, and Shaurimoyo. Still, there are many challenges to improve livelihoods for farming households. The research-for-development (R4D) platform is an initiative to address these challenges. It also serves as a vehicle for scaling of sustainable intensification through integrated farm practices. The ultimate goal is to stimulate learning and innovation to improve livelihoods in terms of productivity, income generation and nutrition in Babati District.

Why?

- to link stakeholders to promote technological, social, and institutional change needed for sustainable intensification
- closing the yield gap
 - higher yields
 - more equitable distribution

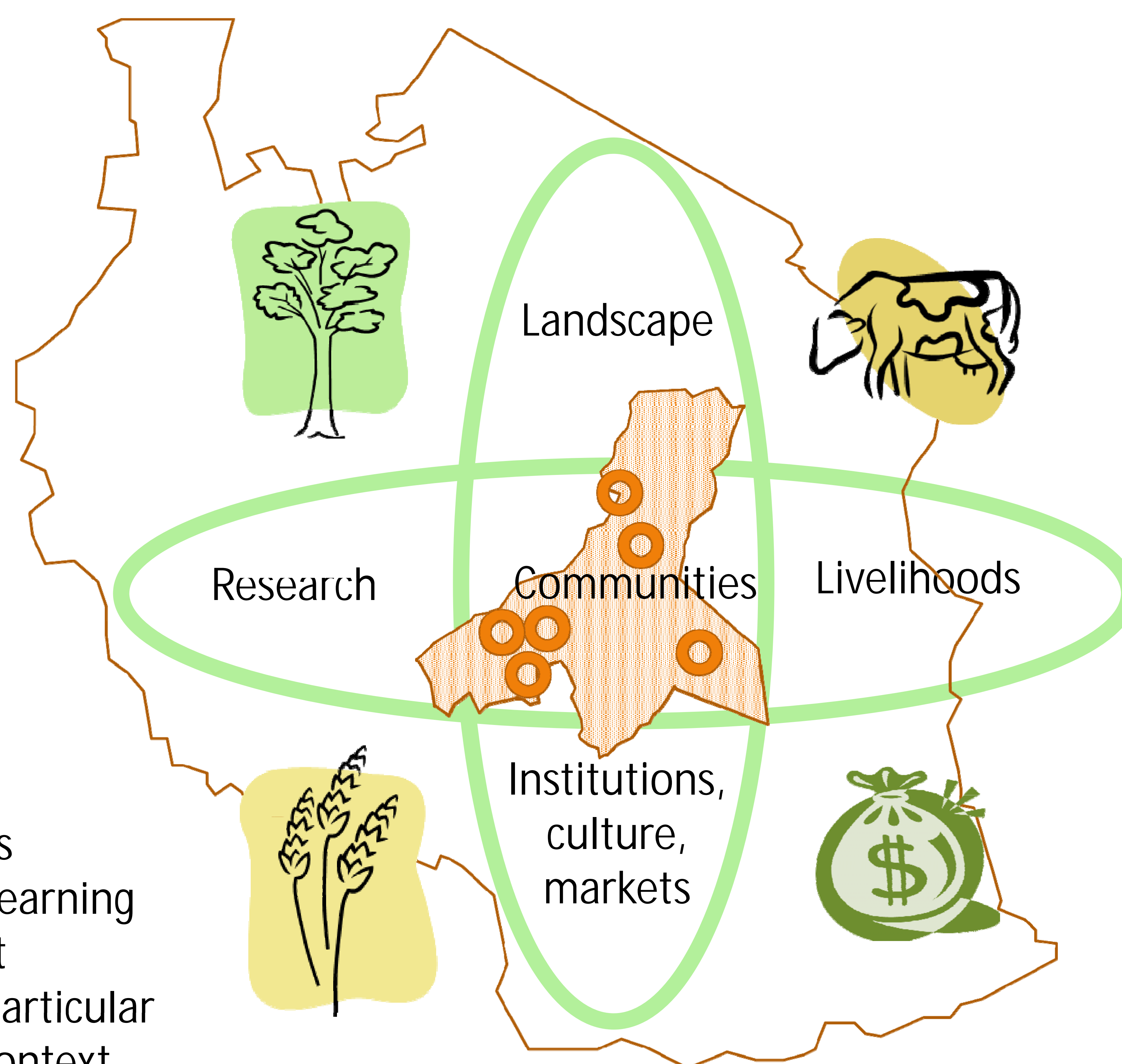
How?

- capacity building
- initiation of new activities
- network building, social learning and conflict management
- putting the adoption of particular technologies in a wider context

Challenges

- consistent methodology for creating an inclusive environment, allowing new ideas to be tested and grown
- the need for training and capacity building throughout the process
- monitoring and evaluation of progress
- experience and readiness to facilitate negotiations and conflict resolution
- ownership and sustainability of the platform

priority setting – networking – feedback



Who?

In the first phase, actors that operate side by side are involved, being potential collaborators in the field. These are:

- farmers and extension agents in the six villages
- private sector
- research institutes
- policy makers

Stakeholders and their potential contributions (structure based on Tenywa et al 2011)

Category of stakeholders	Potential contribution
Farmers (men, women, and youth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and map challenges • make local knowledge visible • test, develop and evaluate candidate interventions • communicate results
Extension agents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge sharing on identification, development and implementation of projects • support communication and promotion of end products
Input suppliers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • timely delivery of quality and affordable inputs/information • commercialize the supply of inputs/tools that support agricultural risk management • package hardware and software (e.g., after-sales service) • knowledge sharing and promotion of appropriate inputs
Output handling and market support agents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide strategic market/system linkages to support producers • guarantee systems/contract farming systems • develop strategies that improve quality and shelf-life of agricultural products • knowledge sharing and flexibility in scaling
Financial institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop financial products/services that support interventions
Research institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • critical situation analysis • leadership in designing interventions • conduct new research where necessary • communicate results
Policy makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mobilize the farmers • support formulation of appropriate policies

Further reading

Hillbur, P. 2013. Research on institutional innovation and scaling issues in Africa RISING. Available at: www.africa-rising.net
 Leeuwis, C. & Aarts, N. 2011. Rethinking Communication in Innovation Processes: Creating Space for Change in Complex Systems. *Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension*, 17(1), 21-36.
 Tenywa, M.M., Rao, K.P.C., Tukahirwa, J.B., Buruchara, R., Adekunle, A.A., Mugabe, J., Wanjiku, C., Mutabazi, S., Fungo, B., Kashaia, N.I.M., Pali, P., Mapatano, S., Ngaboyisonga, C., Farrow, A., Njuki, J. and Abenakyo, A. 2011. Agricultural innovation platform as a tool for development oriented research: Lessons and challenges in the formation and operationalization. *Journal of Agriculture & Environmental Studies* 2(1):117-146

